

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-16 were examined. Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-12 are rejected. Claims 13-16 are allowed; and Claim 10 is objected to. Applicants note with appreciation, the Patent Office's objection to Claim 10 as objected to but allowable if rewritten in independent form. As such, Applicants amend independent Claim 1 to include limitations of objected to but allowable Claim 10, and cancel Claim 10. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the former claims in a divisional or continuation application. Applicants submit a replacement drawing sheet of Figure 1 for approval, and assert that no new matter is added herein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-12 as amended, in view of at least the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Patent Office rejects Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,637, 536 to DeMent ("DeMent").

Applicants amend independent Claim 1 to include limitations of objected to but allowable Claim 10. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DeMent for this first reason.

In addition, Applicants assert that dependent Claims 2-3, 6-9, and 11-12, being dependent upon base Claim 1, are also not anticipated by DeMent for at least the foregoing reasons stated above with respect to independent Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the rejection of dependent Claims 2-3, 6-9, and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DeMent.

III. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Patent Office rejects Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeMent.

Applicants assert that dependent Claims 5, being dependent upon base Claim 1, is not unpatentable over DeMent for at least the foregoing reasons stated above with respect to independent Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the rejection of dependent Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeMent.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that the Patent Office has objected to Claim 10 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, and has allowed Claims 13-16.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending (1) are in proper form, (2) are neither obvious nor anticipated by the relied upon art of record, and (3) are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.